



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

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Media Release



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Chief of Police

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FATAL COLLISION WITH TRAIN NORTH 7TH AVENUE SOUTH OF EAST 7TH STREET

On October 2, 2011 at approximately 2 a.m., the Tucson Police Department was notified by the Tucson Fire Department about a collision with serious injuries involving a train and a passenger car at the railroad crossing at North 7th Avenue just south of East 7th Street. Officers from Operations Division Downtown responded and found that a Union Pacific train had struck a vehicle at the protected crossing. The female driver of the vehicle was transported to a local trauma center with life-threatening injuries. She succumbed to those injuries a short time later. She has been identified as **23-year old Ana Samoza**, of Tucson. Next of kin have been notified.

Detectives from the Tucson Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit responded to continue the investigation at the scene. Based on witness interviews and roadway evidence, detectives have determined that prior to the collision, Samoza was driving a 2007 Nissan Altima on the roadway on the north side of the tracks, when she attempted to cross the tracks southbound. Her vehicle, also occupied by two female passengers (ages 19 and 28), and a male passenger (age 22), became stuck on the tracks. Shortly after becoming stuck, the railroad signal signals activated, warning of an approaching train. The three passengers exited the vehicle and fled to safety on foot. They were uninjured. Samoza fell as she crossed behind her vehicle and was struck by the train. No one on the train was injured.

Detectives have not yet determined if Samoza was originally driving westbound on East 7th Street or southbound on North 7th Avenue prior to the collision.

The investigation is ongoing, and there are indications that alcohol may have been a contributing factor in the collision.

Fatalities year to date:

For 2010 – 32

For 2011 - 32

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.